(b) the quantum of shortage of Urea and whether it shall be made available for rabi season; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what steps Government have taken to cope-up with this problem;

(d) whether there are any obstacles that Government envisage in solving this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) As a part of the measures for augmenting the availability of urea during the current Rabi season, additional funds of the order of Rs. 109.75 crores have been earmarked for the two sick fertilizer PSUs, namely, the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI), to enable them to restart production of urea in some of their closed units. This will also help these companies in sustaining production of urea in some of their other units which were also not producing optimally for want of adequate funds.

(b) The availability of urea in the country during Kharif 1994 was satisfactory. No shortage of urea is anticipated during the current Rabi season also.

(c) to (e) The following measures have been taken to meet the requirement of urea in the country during the current Rabi season :

(i) Optimisation of indigenous production by deferring the shutdowns and additional non-plan support to resume/ sustain production in the sick units of HFC and FCI;

(ii) Stepped up imports of urea ; and

(iii) Intensive monitoring of supplies of urea in close co-ordination with the concerned agencies.

Grounding of Aircraft by Indian Airlines

*227. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of aircraft of Indian Airlines have been grounded of unusually long period ostensibly for the purpose of maintenance and overhauling;

(b) if so, the usual time taken for periodical maintenance and overhauling of an airbus;

(c) the details of the airbuses that remained grounded, alongwith number of days of grounding of the respective aircraft, for more than 30 days, during the last two years; and

(d) The cost of grounding of an airbus in terms of revenue to the Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The usual time taken for different mandatory major maintenance checks for Airbus A 300 and Airbus A 320 are as follows :-

Types of Checks	Time interval	Grounding Time Norm (in days)
(a) *Airbus A* 300		
C	4000 flying hours or 18 months.	30
IL	8000 flying hours or 3 years	45
D	16000 flying hours or 6 years.	90
(b) *Airbus A* 320		
C	3600 to 3800 flying hours	30

(c) The details are given in Annexure [See Appendix 172 (Annexure 5.4)].

(d) The average cash surplus generated by an Airbus A 300 and Airbus A 320 aircraft per hour of flight is Rs. 104,800 and Rs. 85,000 respectively. The aircraft operate about six hours a day.

Cut in Defence Services

*228. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the cuts in all the three Defence Services during the last five years;

(b) whether the Navy has been worst hit; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the naval challenge of other countries in the region ?